

PG&E San Mateo Pipeline Site



State Announces the Availability of Removal Action Workplan

It is DTSC's mission to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



INTRODUCTION

The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has prepared this fact sheet to inform the public about the proposed remedial alternative for contaminated soils located at the PG&E San Mateo Pipeline Site within the Crystal Springs Reservoir in Belmont, San Mateo County, California.

DTSC has prepared a draft **Removal Action Workplan (draft RAW)** and a **CEQA Notice of Exemption** which are now available for public review and comment at the information repositories (see For More Information Box). The draft RAW recommends digging up the contaminated soil and taking it to an appropriate offsite facility.

This fact sheet announces the public comment period, describes the contamination present at the Site, specifies the removal action goal, and presents the alternative methods considered and the preferred remedy selected to achieve this goal. **Terms in bold are defined in glossary.**

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

DTSC will hold a 45-day public comment period for the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW).

The public comment period begins
December 20, 2001
and closes
February 4, 2002

DTSC invites the public to comment on the draft RAW. Written comments must be postmarked by February 4, 2002 and addressed to Edgardo Guillera, 700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200, Berkeley, California 94710-2721.

At the close of the public comment period, DTSC will carefully consider all comments received. All commentors will be notified of the decision.

For Questions or comments you may also call Jesus Cruz, Public Participation Coordinator at (510) 540-3933, or e mail him at: JCruz@dtsc.ca.gov

Site Description and Background

The Site is located within the Crystal Springs Reservoir protected watershed, off Canada Road in Belmont. The Reservoir is situated 13 miles south of San Francisco. Crystal Springs Reservoir covers 23,000 acres and is nine miles long and 122 feet deep. The City and County of San Francisco maintain the entire watershed.

PG&E owns and operates two high-pressure gas pipelines that run east of Crystal Springs Reservoir. The pipelines, which provide gas service to cities on the San Francisco peninsula, are generally buried underground except for stream channel crossings where they are exposed. Valves are located along the pipelines at regular intervals to facilitate the removal of liquids that accumulate within the lines.

Land uses adjacent to the watershed area are predominantly residential to the north and east, and private open space to the south and west. The closest residence to the Site is the watershed caretaker's residence located about half a mile from the northern contaminated area. The closest residential neighborhood is located approximately three-quarters of a mile east of the northern contamination area. The Site is located in a canyon; hilly terrain prevents the Site from being visible to the closest residence.

Site Investigations

In January and December 1999, soil samples were collected from the vicinity of three valves (A, B and C) and at down slope and stream bed locations further toward the Reservoir. Investigations found contamination in soil surrounding three small valves. These valves comprise the

Site. The results indicate the presence of approximately 40 cubic yards of soil contaminated with **polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs)** and **total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH)**. Samples were collected immediately around the valves. No contaminants were detected in samples collected down gradient from the valves in the stream channel. The contamination is limited around the valves estimated at 250 square feet at Valves A and B, and 170 square feet at Valve C.

In its present state, the Site does not pose a health risk since the contamination is in small-secured areas. The contamination has not impacted the reservoir, as the contaminants have not migrated from the valve vicinity and the site is approximately one mile south of the reservoir.

REMOVAL ACTION WORKPLAN

Cleanup Goals

The goal of the removal action at the Site is to achieve risk levels for PCBs and TPH in soil that are considered acceptable by DTSC for protection of public health and the environment and for unrestricted land use. The acceptable soil clean up goal for PCBs is 1 part per million (ppm). And the acceptable soil clean up goal for TPHs is 100 parts per million (ppm).

Alternatives Considered

A number of removal action alternatives that will meet the cleanup goal were initially evaluated in the Draft RAW. These alternatives included capping the soil, placing deed restriction on each area to ensure that there will be no future contact with soil, removing the soil with PCBs and

TPH above the cleanup goal and leveling or replacing it with clean fill. Based on the preliminary evaluation of these alternatives, four alternatives were evaluated in the Draft RAW:

- 1) No Action;
- 2) Soil Removal, Confirmation Sampling and Soil Replacement;
- 3) Delineation Sampling and Soil Removal; and
- 4) Capping and Placing Deed Restrictions.

These alternatives were evaluated based on Implementability, Cost and Effectiveness in protecting human health and the environment.

Recommended Alternative

DTSC is recommending Alternative 2 (Soil Removal, Confirmation Sampling and Replacement) as the preferred alternative because it is protective of public health and the environment and is economically feasible.

This alternative involves removing soils to a depth of 18 inches around the valves and

backfilling the excavated areas with clean soil. Approximately 40 cubic yards of soils (about six truckloads) will be removed from the area around three valves. The excavated soils will be loaded into trucks and hauled to a permitted disposal facility. Confirmation sampling will be performed to verify soils exceeding the cleanup goals have been removed. Clean, imported soil will be placed in the excavation areas and graded to match the existing ground surface. Areas disturbed by the cleanup activities will be restored to their original condition.

California Environmental Quality Act

DTSC must determine if the proposed removal action will have a significant environmental effect pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). DTSC has determined that the proposed removal action is exempt from CEQA and would have no impact on the environment due the small volume of soil, the limited area, and the short duration of the project. Therefore, DTSC has prepared a Notice of Exemption.

Glossary of Terms

Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs)

A group of toxic chemicals used for a variety of purposes including electrical applications, carbonless copy paper, adhesives, hydraulic fluids, microscope emersion oils and caulking compounds. PCBs do not breakdown easily and are listed as cancer causing agents under Proposition 65.

Petroleum Hydrocarbons

Any of numerous organic compounds, such as benzene, that contain only carbon and hydrogen and are derived from petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel or waste oil.

For More Information

If you have questions or would like more information on the PG&E San Mateo Pipeline site, please call: **Edgardo Gillera, DTSC Project Manager (510) 540-3826 or Jesus Cruz, Public Participation Coordinator (510) 540-3933. For Media inquiries contact: Angela Blanchett, DTSC Public Information Officer (510)540-3732**

Site related documents are available for public review at the Information Repositories listed here:
Belmont Public Library, 1110 Alameda, Belmont, California 94002 (650) 591-8286.

DTSC, 700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, California 94710 (510) 540-3800. Call for an appointment
THE FULL ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD IS LOCATED AT THE DTSC FILE ROOM LOCATION.

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can obtain additional information about the PG&E San Mateo Pipeline Site by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach Jesus Cruz at (510) 540-3933.

Jesus Cruz
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